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Army's New Leave Policy Delays Recruits' Time Off

Army's new leave policy for recruits departs from granting the customary "first leave" immediately following completion of eight weeks in basic combat training.

Instead, it calls for postponing the 14-day initial leave until completion of the advanced course in one of the combat arms or in some specialized skill. This is approximately 16 weeks after a recruit enters training.

The new policy applies to soldiers who begin basic training on or after Jan. 16.

Army cited these significant advantages to the policy change:

- Greater continuity and more effective training by completing the first two training cycles without interruption;
- Leave coming at a time usually considered most desirable by soldiers at the close of training and before joining a stateside or overseas unit.

But the new policy does not represent a total departure from granting initial leave after basic training. Two exceptions are those individuals so specialized in a skill that they require no advanced training and those individuals scheduled for long advanced courses in languages, intelligence and missilery. They will get their first leave immediately following basic training.

Army also stressed that the new policy does not alter leave for compassionate reasons. This may be granted at any time.

Sec Def's Thanksgiving Message

I send my best wishes to all members of the Armed Forces on this Thanksgiving Day, and especially to those of you who are far from your loved ones on this traditional family day.

It is fitting that we pause on Thanksgiving to reflect upon our blessings, as did our forefathers more than 300 years ago. It is equally important that we rededicate ourselves to the preservation of the freedoms we inherited from those who first sought peace and liberty for themselves and their descendants in our New World. That all mankind might someday walk in peace and freedom is our prayer this Thanksgiving.

DIPLOMA FOR SERGEANT—Senior Master Sergeant R. L. S. Hendrickson, USAF (right), receives his diploma from Edwin L. Weisl Jr., assistant attorney general, during graduating exercises for 78th session of FBI National Academy in Washington. J. Edgar Hoover, FBI director, looks on. The sergeant, only AF member who attended the session, was one of 100 outstanding law enforcement officers in the 12-week course. He is chief security law enforcement officer assigned to AF Academy at Colorado Springs.

Defense Dept. Launches Study Of Military Food Service

A new DOD directorate has started a far-reaching food service study designed to bring improvements into the military system for more uniformity and greater efficiency by January, 1968.

Food Planning, the first study area, is scheduled for March completion, said Navy Capt. James A. Warren, SC, head of the recently-formed Directorate for Food Service.

Other areas, with scheduled completions, are Facilities and Equipment, April; Accounting and Reporting, and a separate Personnel Study, June.

The directorate serves as a focal point for all military food service matters. Its function is to establish, then monitor, food service policies, standards and operations servicewide. Staff membership is made up of senior officers of each service and a civilian specialist.

Goal is to improve organization and procedures by developing standard policies and procedures among the services. This is designed to lead to more efficient operations.

Washington Memos

ARMED FORCES AIR travel information booths will be operating at eight airports across the nation by the first of the year supplying information for military personnel concerning boarding priorities and confirmed reservations. New York's Kennedy Airport and San Francisco's International Airport are now supplying this information. Others will be located at O'Hare in Chicago, National Airport in Washington, Imeson at Jacksonville, Atlanta Airport, Lambert Field in St. Louis and Love Air Terminal at Dallas.

MEDAL OF HONOR policy published Nov. 1 by DOD (Directive 1348.18) calls for recommendations to gain endorsements of unified or specified commanders concerned and Joint Chiefs of Staff before being referred to appropriate secretary of military department for action. New policy also specifies that recommendations be handled on a "For Official Use Only" basis to prevent premature public disclosure of information that could be potential source of embarrassment to those recommended.

AIR NATIONAL GUARD airlift units continue to support active forces flying missions to Australia, Europe and South America. These flights are now made in C-97 Stratofreighters and C-121 Super Constellations, a change from Military Airlift Command C-130 Hercules aircraft.

HOSPITAL SHIP SANCTUARY recommissioned Nov. 15 at New Orleans, with most modern medical and surgical equipment available, including new facilities such as a frozen blood bank and central oxygen and suction system. The 750-bed hospital ship was first commissioned near end of WW II and during 14 months' service evacuated Americans from Japanese POW camps.

BY USING COMPUTERS and matching flight requests with flights provided by the parent Military Airlift Commands at Rhein-Main AB, Germany, reservations for air travel are confirmed within 24 hours after receiving requests at the centralized passenger reservation center that handles arrangements for all Defense Department agencies. Terminal reservation centers at Mildenhall AB, England; Paris; and Torrejon AB, Spain, also operate under the new center.

VICE PRESIDENT CONGRATULATED servicemen competing in Washington for the annual Chess title tournament of the armed forces. Calling Chess an ancient form of intellectual combat, Mr. Humphrey said, "This should be encouraged. In this age of increasing tensions and crises, a pastime which disciplines the mind obviously should receive greater attention in our educational and recreational programs for young and old."

DESTROYER ESCORT KNOX launched Nov. 19 at Seattle, Wash. Designated DE-1052, the ship displaces 4,000 tons, is 438 feet long and has a 47-foot beam.

SUPPLY CORPS WAVE Lt. Nancy A. Hunter, USN, attends law school at the Georgetown University Law Center during her spare time and has passed the Virginia Bar Examination on her first try, one full year before she will graduate from law school. A budget and program analysis officer for the Defense Supply Agency Contract Administration Services, Lt. Hunter is scheduled to graduate next June.

ARGENTINE SCIENTIFIC ROCKET was successfully test-fired in two of three attempts by NASA at Wallops Island. Argentina's vehicle was a relatively small—286 pound, solid fuel sounding rocket designed for upper atmospheric and space research. Launch arrangements were made by the Argentine Space Commission (CNIE) with NASA. Six Argentine engineers and technicians were assisted in launching operations by NASA personnel.

MARKUPS ON ABOUT 20 major categories of merchandise sold at Navy Exchanges throughout world will be reduced on a phasing schedule beginning Dec. 26. Reduced items will include cosmetics, luggage, electrical appliances and children's clothing. Additional marked up items will be reduced on monthly basis during 1967, it was reported.

TRAVIS AFB, CALIF., has been awarded the first American Petroleum Trophy for best-operated Base Petroleum Organization in Air Force. Sponsored by the American Petroleum Institute, the trophy was accepted for the Air Force by Brig. Gen. Ernest L. Ramme, director of Supply and Services. He presented it to Brig. Gen. Maurice Casey, commander of the 60th Military Airlift Wing, accepting on behalf of the organization.

ARMY'S ONLY ENGINEERING flight test activity has been transferred from Edwards AFB, Calif., to Army Aviation Materiel Command, St. Louis. Unit includes about 200 military and civilian personnel, some of former Vietnam combat veterans.

JOINT SERVICE PROJECT will test endurance of 6,000-foot aluminum runway being constructed by Army engineers at Dyess AFB, Tex. Construction time is faster than required for concrete and it may be built on soils not suited for concrete. Tactical Air Command is directing the Army-Navy-Air Force project.

CHRISTMAS USO SHOW "Holiday Jamboree," featuring western, folk and pop music, tours the Alaskan and Pacific circuits for 19 weeks, opening Nov. 22. Pacific circuit also will get in early December USO theatrical troupe from Fresno Stage College and the Broadway hit, "Stop the World—I Want To Get Off."

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Promotions Improve For Air Force Majors

Results of the Air Force's CY66 lieutenant colonel selections are expected "to afford considered officers a reasonable and predictable percentage opportunity of selection" in the future.

Statistics just released show that of 9,591 officers considered for the first time in the primary zone, total selected was 6,345 or 66 percent. An additional 538 officers had received early promotions to lieutenant colonel before becoming eligible in the primary zone.

A September board selection list of 2,728 names is scheduled for release the third week in November. An earlier group of 5,082 was selected in January.

Projected promotion opportunity goal of 75 percent can be realized, officials said, providing 35 percent of the remaining officers who will be considered for a second time by next year's board are selected. Historically 39 percent of these officers are selected.

"As a result of the Air Force grade legislation and increased retirements of older officers," officials said, "promotion opportunity will steadily improve during the next six years."

Another benefit derived from the CY66 selection program is that Air Force officers are now considered during their 16th year of active commissioned service, and promoted not later than their 17th year. The system has produced a two-year reduction in the lieutenant colonel promotion service point since 1963.

Officials noted that approximately 25 percent of the officers considered twice in the primary zone will not be selected for promotion. The tenure of Reserve officers is not affected, they said, and Regular officers are considered again their 20th and 21st years.

First Successful U. S. Jet Flight To Antarctica Has 25,000-ton Cargo

First successful United States jet flight to Antarctica touched down on the ice runway at the Navy's McMurdo Station, Nov. 14, without incident.

Rear Admiral Fred E. Bakutis, USN, commander of Operation Deep Freeze, aboard the historic flight, congratulated Capt. Howard Geddes, USAF, for "his excellent airmanship in piloting the C-141 Starlifter."

Captain Geddes made a previous flight to McMurdo, Nov. 11, but had to return to Christchurch, New Zealand, without landing because of excessive cross winds.

The Starlifter landed at McMurdo off-loading 25,000 pounds of cargo before returning to Deep Freeze headquarters in Christchurch.

PRESENTS COLORS—Lt. Col. William Madden, commanding officer, 2nd Bn, 320th Airborne Artillery, presents the old colors to Brig. Gen. Willard Pearson, CG 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, at Tuy Hoa, South Vietnam as Sgt. Maj. Garnett Arnold looks on. Old colors will be placed in 101st museum at Ft. Campbell, Ky. Battalion was presented new colors by Gen. Pearson.

Additional Miles Sought For Government Automobiles

President Johnson announced a plan to get more miles and years out of government cars in order to combat inflationary pressures by holding federal expenditures to a minimum.

The White House announcement came Nov. 7 in the form of a memo to Bureau of Budget Director Charles L. Schultze that recounted efforts of his bureau and the General Services Administration to review all aspects of civilian agency procurement.

Mr. Johnson said one result of the review is development of procedures to reduce federal purchases of automobiles during the current fiscal year.

"The civilian agencies have received instructions to:

- Continue in use for at least another year all serviceable passenger-carrying motor vehicles,
- Extend the minimum replacement standard for fiscal year 1967 from six years and 60,000 miles to seven years and 72,000 miles,
- Revise their 1967 budget figures to accord with these instructions."

First analysis indicates the purchase of at least 1,500 passenger-carrying vehicles, largely sedans and station wagons, can be deferred, he noted.

The President also said that GSA "will analyze experience with its own nationwide motor pool to determine whether it may be economically justifiable to extend the higher replacement standard through fiscal year 1968."

Cities May Overcome Installations Losses

How a city faced with the closing down of a defense installation can overcome its loss was outlined by Donald F. Bradford, DOD Community Adjustment Program director, in a Nov. 17 speech at Salina, Kan.

Mr. Bradford was referring to Salina's successful overcoming of a major social-economic blow in the closing of Schilling Air Force Base.

Mr. Bradford told of the experience learned by DOD in more than four years of operating the Defense Community Adjustment Program which featured these points:

- The first lesson DOD learned was to view each community as a separate, distinct entity;
- Defense spending is unpredictable and location of a defense installation in a city is not an unmitigated blessing;
- A surplus military installation is a community asset that can provide a ready means of attracting new companies and industries.

Stressing the basic solution of civic leadership, he said, "Show me a community with leadership and I will show you a community which is growing robustly. You have that leadership."

But most important of all, he said, is for the community to heed the old adage that "God helps those who help themselves."

MAC Releases Some Examiners, Pilots for Duty in Vietnam

Some Military Airlift Command pilots and flight examiners will be tapped for Vietnam duty under a "planned release" policy lifting their previous exemption from Southeast Asia levy.

The exemption was designed to satisfy manpower requirements of the increased flying-hour program, the conversion to C-141 aircraft, and an influx of non-MAC pilots. These requirements have reached a leveling-off point.

AWARDED MEDAL—Capt. Edwin M. Rosenberg, USN, commanding officer of the heavy guided missile cruiser USS Canberra, presents Navy Commendation Medal to Lt. Cmdr. Lee Roy Craig, USN, in ceremony aboard the ship. Lt. Cmdr. Craig, former engineering officer aboard the Canberra, was commended for his service during the ship's recent deployment in the Vietnam area. He is now serving aboard the destroyer tender USS Prairie.

AF Selects Contractors For Missile Definition

Air Force has selected contractors to proceed with contract definition phase of the Maverick air-to-ground missile program.

This phase includes verification of preliminary design and engineering and information to award a definitive contract for development and production.

Contracts valued at approximately $3 million will be awarded to the Hughes Aircraft Co., Culver City, Calif., and North American Aviation, Inc., Columbus, Ohio.

The Maverick is planned as a non-nuclear missile for use with the F-111A, A-7D, and F-4 series aircraft. Specific mission of the missile is to increase strike capability against tactical targets such as armored vehicles, tanks and structures.

Maverick program is managed by Aeronautical Systems Division of Air Force Systems Command.

Satellite 'Hook Up' May Aid AF Communications

Air Force technicians plan to use the eight satellites fired into orbit from Cape Kennedy last June in experiments to improve communications systems.

Special equipment installed in a C-121 aircraft will collect data on signals relayed through satellites between the airplane and ground stations.

Tests call for voice and teletype communications relayed through a satellite from either aircraft or ground station; and transmission of airborne meteorological reconnaissance data to ground via satellite. Some of the signals will travel 50,000 miles between terminal points.

Equipment will be operated by engineers of the AF Avionics Laboratory, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, and Aeronautical Systems Division. The C-121 will be manned by ASD crews. AF facilities at Rome Air Development Center, RTD unit at Rome, N.Y., will be used as a ground station.

The satellites, launched in a single package, are in an orbit at 18,000 nautical miles. They weigh about 100 pounds each, are octagonal and have 56-inch diameters.

Marine General Officers Designated for Reassignment

Marine Corps Headquarters announced the reassignment of two general officers and pending reassignment of two others.

Brig. Gen. John R. Chaisson is detached immediately from III MAF for stateside leave prior to reporting in mid-December to MACV as relief for Maj. Gen. William K. Jones as Director of Combat Operations Center Control Element.

General Jones reports to Marine Corps Headquarters during January 1967.

"Reassignment of Brigadier Generals Lowell E. English and Jonas M. Platt, both of III MAF, will be announced later," the Marine Corps announcement said.

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